

EVERYDAY BEST PRACTICE IN PET CARE

1. Change cat litter and clean litter trays on a daily basis and disinfect exposed floor areas surrounding cat litter trays.
2. Wash solid floors with detergent and vacuum carpets.
3. Wash your hands thoroughly with an antibacterial handwash after handling your pet or after handling pet-related materials, e.g. the cat litter and tray.
4. Groom your pet daily and clean and wash grooming combs and brushes.
5. If your dog or cat has soiled paws after going outdoors, wash them in mild soapy warm water, rinse and dry using a towel.
6. Consider putting a bell on your cat's collar to help prevent it being able to catch live birds. Try to discourage your cat from catching birds by distracting him whilst hunting.
7. It is easy and hygienic to feed quality commercial pet food. Feeding raw poultry presents a health risk and is not advised. Any handling of raw meat, including offal and poultry, requires meticulous hygiene.
8. Wash pet food and water bowls using washing-up liquid in hot water separately from human utensils and washing facilities, if possible (i.e. not in the kitchen sink). Leave bowls to dry fully.
9. Ensure your dog or cat has a collar with an identity tag clearly stating your surname and a contact telephone number.
10. Have your dog or cat microchipped and ensure your registration details are fully up to date.
11. If you are concerned about the health of your pet, seek veterinary advice from your own veterinary surgeon or if you are away from home, the local veterinary practice.

If you have to move a dead bird:

1. Avoid touching the bird with your bare hands.
2. If possible, wear disposable protective gloves when picking up and handling.
3. Wrap the dead bird in newspaper and place it in a suitable plastic bag, preferably leak proof. Care should be taken not to contaminate the outside of the bag.
4. Tie the bag and place it in a second plastic bag.
5. Remove gloves by turning them inside out and then place them in the second plastic bag. Tie the bag and dispose of in your external household refuse bin.
6. Hands should then be washed thoroughly with soap and water.
7. If disposable gloves are not available, a plastic bag can be used as a make-shift glove. When the dead bird has been picked up, the bag can be turned back on itself and tied. It should then be placed in a second plastic bag, tied and disposed of in the normal household waste
8. Alternatively, the dead bird can be buried, but not in a plastic bag
9. Any clothing that has been in contact with the dead bird should be washed using ordinary washing detergent at the temperature normally used for washing the clothing.
10. If the dead bird is brought into your home, disinfect solid floors. If it is in contact with a floor or furnishings' covering, clean it using a suitable surface cleaning product.

www.pethealthcouncil.co.uk

The Pet Health Council (PHC) encourages responsible pet ownership and works closely with a panel of expert veterinary and medical professionals. Pets provide us with loyalty, companionship, love and affection, as well as the many physical and psychological benefits. The least we can do to repay this is ensure that we keep them in the best of health. A healthy pet is a happy pet and a happy pet can help us enjoy a much fuller and more rewarding life. **phc@uk.grayling.com**